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THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2013

Student chefs
They ROC the menu Page 6

Storm pictures
Boxing day snow hampers motorists

Seeking sunlight Solar projects search for support

Santa visits Northland Pointe hosts St. Nick

INPORTANEWS

· ISSUE NO. 1 VOLUME 17

REACH OUT CENTRE: Community support needed

Port Cares meeting a growing need for help

MARYANNE FIRTH InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE -When the going gets tough, the tough gets going. And when the number of people falling below the poverty line starts growing, so

must the facility that prides itself on offering assistance. It's been a year and a half since Port Cares opened its expanded Reach Out Centre on Nickel St., and the agency's staff, volunteers and cli-

ents all seem to be settling in nicely. The \$1-million expansion opened in July 2011. Port make use of its newfound

see PORT CARES I page 2

MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo Port Cares volunteer Maryanne Beauregard busily organizes stockings prior to the agency's Christmas dinner. Students from St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School collected enough toiletries and treats to

stuff 118 stockings for the

agency's clients











upfront

PORT CARES

Registration numbers beginning to climb

The renovations increased the existing space to include additional seating, as well as food storage to accommodate the community food bank for the Port Colborne/Wainfleet

It also included an expanded commercial kitchen, office space and a classroom for programming. Executive director Lynda Reinhart believes the capital campaign the agency embarked on to help fund the project helped to raise the

profile of Port Cares in the lakeside city and beyond. At the same time, however, she said work still needs to be done to get the message out in the community about just what it is that Port Cares

"That will be a focus for us in the new year," she said, while sitting in the ROC

In January, Port Cares will be embarking on a community partnership campaign. in bopes of drumming up support from local businesses and even individuals to support its programs. The community meal program in particular is in need of

Every Thursday night, the centre serves about 140 plates on average. The lunch programs, which take place Mondays and Wednesdays can see upwards of 100 people per sitting It costs roughly \$75 to

sponsor an entire lunch sitting and \$150 for an entire dinner sitting. Canada Niagara Power has

already jumped on board to provide funds for a meal It's a trend centre manager Andrea Birrell is hoping to see continue.

The Thursday night dinners were introduced following the expansion opening to assist those unable to make it to the lunchtime meals. The agency is seeing an increase in need

for their services among the working poor, Birrell said That extra meal once a week can mean a world of difference, she added.

The first of the evening meals was held in celebration of Thanksgiving in October and 187 people attended. Many of the changes seen

at the agency are the direct result of climbing statistics on the working poor, Reinhart

The centre has also extended the hours of its food bank on Thursday evenings to accommodate those who work during the day.

Earlier this month, Port Cares received "amazing news," Reinhart said. The agency was officially deemed a member of the Ontario Association of Food Banks an approval it has been waiting on for six years.

This will allow Port Cares the opportunity to accept large-scale food donations from large companies to assist when the shelves in the food bank begin to run bare. Our numbers have increased substantially. Reinhard said, noting about 250 people a month using the

food bank services. Along with the working poor, the number of seniors accessing the services has increased, she said.

"The cost of living has gone up and people are having a harder time

Industrial job losses in the area have also hit residents bard, Birrell said, adding that for "a lot of gentlemen in the meal program, that's their

It's also not uncommon. she said, to see generations of families coming in to access Port Cares' services. "We want to try and break that cycle," she said, by teach-

ing life skills through the various programs for people of all ages One new program that has



hit its strides is the weekly homework club for youths. Students from Lakeshore Catholic High School volunteer their time to tutor young-

sters through the program. It not only helps youths with their homework, but provides them with role models closer to their own age who encourage staving in school, Birrell said.

Reinhart said the hone is to send the message that staying in school and possibly even accessing post secondary education will help to change that cycle of poverty.

Another new highlight is the centre's Food Service Associate Program. Participants receive training and certification in safe food handling, WHIMIS Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System) and Smart Serve, all at no cost. The program's new eight-week block begins Jan.

7. Registration is now open. As the community becomes aware of what is offered at the ROC, registration numbers are beginning to climb.

"We've been able to open up the centre to the community in a whole new way,"

Reinhart said, listing a few of the many programs including adult and children cooking classes, jiu-jitsu, crocheting, a walking club, movie nights

and a community garden. A huge emphasis has been put on food through the meal program and various workshops that promote healthy

"We really want to make a difference in the health of families and children in the neighbourhood," Reinhart She credits the many vol-

unteers who donate their time to the agency for helping the centre to run so smoothly. In the food bank alone, Port Cares sees between 25 and 30 volunteers a month and about 500 volunteer hours are logged monthly for the meal program.

"We have very involved and passionate people who volunteer and run the programs," Birrell said, crediting their hard work.

While Port Cares is accustomed to offering assistance, the agency switched roles earlier this year when it learned the ROC would be the recipient of Niagara College's annual Many Hands

Each year a non-profit organization is chosen for a facility renovation organized by students in Niagara College's event management post-graduate program. Work is then executed by students in the college's construction

studies programs. Renovations at the centre are scheduled to begin in January and will include installation of windows, carpets, window coverings and chair rails. The project will also include painting and construction of a removable privacy wall, storage units and a shed.

That sort of assistance is invaluable for the agency, Reinhart said, as funds are

Port Cares only receives funding from United Way of South Niagara, as well as community donations, to

continue its operations The centre plans to continue expanding its list of programs in the future. Port Cores will be launching a new website toward the end of January that will feature all details on the available

Port Cares will be running seminars in January that deal with energy saving and other

cost-savings techniques. The agency will also be teaming up with Bridges Community Health Centre to host various programs in

partnership in the new year. While donations of all kinds are always welcome. the ROC is in desperate need of tables and chairs for its dining room, as well as dishes, cutlery and other kitchen items.

For more information on donations, volunteering or sponsoring a meal, call Birrell at 905-835-1914 ext. 22.

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PORT CARES REACH OUT CENTRE

PROGRAMS

 Walking club: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:45 a.m.

■ Homework club: Thursdays 3:30 p.m.

Adult cooking circles: Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m.

Food Service Associate Program: The new 8 week block begins January 7th.

Registration is open now. Food bank: Monday and Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursday from 2

p.m. to 7 p.m.

 Meal program: Lunch, Monday and Wednesday at noon. Doors to the centre open at 10 a.m. for community residents to come in for coffee and social time. Dinner Thursday night. Doors open at 4 p.m. and dinner is

served at 5:30 Bingo, games, and crafts are available before the noon meal on the first Monday of the month.

For additional programs and times, call Andrea Birrell at 905-835-1914 ext. 22.



Julia Johnson, Legacey Leveille and Tanner Smith

get cookin' during the ROC the Menu program at the Port Cares Reach Out

portraits

■ REACH OUT CENTRE: Volunteer drive slated for January

Helping hands become part of the family

MARYANNE FIRTH InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE - It's the welcoming atmosphere and rewarding feeling of helping others that keeps volunteers coming back to the Port Cares Reach Out Centre.

The agency is always on the hunt for new pairs of helping hands and relies on a team of dedicated volunteers to keep the ball rolling smoothly with

its many programs Annette Zarb-Tedesco has been volunteering with Port

Cares for the past eight years. "I'm a Christian and I love helping people," she said while sitting in the centre where she spends her time prepping meals three times a week "Helping people is very

important to me, and giving hack! Zarb-Tedesco was first intro-

duced to Port Cares through Fr. David Spengler "He thought I'd be a perfect

fit here." Zarb-Tedesco said. adding it seems her friend hit the nail on the head Along with doing meal preparation, she takes it upon her-

self to interact with the centre's visitors, staff and clients It's the resulting bonds and friendships that have kept a smile on her face all these

"I feel I have benefitted more

being here than I could ever give," she said "It's a privilege to come and

volunteer here. She credit centre staff as well as her fellow volunteers for helping the ROC's many programs to move forward successfully.

"We have a great time here. We all work well together. It's like a family."

Zarb-Tedesco said volunteering at the ROC has become significantly easier now

The expansion bas allowed that the expansion is up and volunteers to expand menus running for the weekly meal program, "We used to work in a small offering more of a variety

kitchen area, elbow to elbow." for those using the centre's she said. "now we have all this services space. It's just great." "I think the clients really Jane Wright, who's been volappreciate it. For me, it's so

unteering with the agency for

the past four years, echoed her

"I was bere when they had

the old kitchen. This is such a

wonderful addition," she said

kitchen-mate's comments

of the ROC.

rewarding to do this," Wright While some days can be a challenge, the staff and volunteers at the centre band together to make sure the programs continue on success-

fully, she said Following her retirement, Wright decided she wanted to volunteer her time helping

others in the community "It's very rewarding," she "Plus, you get to work with

Volunteer Annette Zarb-Tedesco can often be found prepping community meals in the kitchen of the Port Cares Reach Out Centre.

marvelous people. For anyone thinking about volunteering, Zarb-Tedesco has a simple piece of advice: "Bring a friend."

"It makes it that much easier if you come with someone And the more the merrier.

maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca

MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

HELP WANTED

Port Cares will be conducting a volunteer drive in January Volunteers are especially needed to help with the food bank on Thursday evenings and to help with crafts and bingo on the first Monday of the month from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Opportunities exist for high school students to get their community service hours by helping with the homework club

and meal program To volunteer or for more information, call Andrea Birrell at 905-835-1914 ext. 22.

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INPORTANEWS

Published by InPort News Sun Media Corp. 228 East Main Street, Welland, Ontario, L3B 5P5 Tel: 905-732-2414 Fax: 905-732-3660 inport.news@sunmedia.ca

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Ourview

Ineffective Drive Clean should be pulled off road

Except for enduring needs, such as health care and income support, government programs set up to tackle specific problems should have a defined end. Too many linger well beyond their natural expiry date, which thickens bureaucracy and thins taxpayers' patience. That said, can there be any justification for Ontario

clinging to its vehicle-emissions testing program? Created a generation ago, Drive Clean was a specious attempt to curb pollution from the start.

Employing the same logic that would lead to peeing and non-peeing sections of public swimming pools, Queen's Park never subjected the entire province to the compulsory tests - only the most heavily populated south. Rural areas, the north and east were off the book. Nor are all registered vehicles covered; the worst-polluting older jalopies are

Now, Ontario Auditor Jim McCarter has suggested it's time for a rethink. In his latest annual report, the independent government spending watchdog says vehicle emissions have fallen so sharply "that they are no longer among the major domestic contributors of smog in Ontario.

Yet, it's not Drive Clean, but other factors - such as better cars and cleaner fuel - that have driven those gains his report notes, citing the Environment Ministry's own figure saying 75% of the reduction in vehicle emissions can be chalked up to other explanations

Make no mistake: Air pollution kills and vehicles add to the deadly mix.

But Ontario's worst pollution has never come out of vehicle tailpipes

It's filth that blows in from the U.S. Midwest or spews from homegrown sources, such as heavy industry and Ontario's remaining coal-fired power plants.

Drive Clean spares vehicles built before 1988, lets thousands more through each year without the full repairs they need and is about to start using new diagnostic testing technology the auditor says doesn't work - the government says it will deal with that - on pre-1998 vehicles

It's a program of questionable value, fraught with inconsistencies but netting the province a tidy profit of \$11 million a year on the backs of motorists. Sounds like it's time for a clean break from Drive Clean.

■ COLUMN

I've been thinking about peace on earth

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

few weeks ago in my Sunday morning sermon I talked about how, so often when we look at a situation. when we look at our lives, when we look at our world we just have to say, "This isn't the way it's supposed to be." The day before I preached that sermon, the daughter, granddaughter, and niece of members of our congregation died at the age of 40 leaving behind a five year old boy who now has to grow up without his mother. "This isn't the way it's supposed to be."

That week we had her funeral in our church. The place was filled to standing room only as people mourned and said goodbye to that young woman. The day after her funeral we were hit with the news of a shooting in Connecticut that took the lives of nearly 30 people, including 20 children. My wife and daughter and I heard the news as we were driving on the OEW listening to Christmas music on the radio, and occasionally between songs we'd hear updates on what happened there. It seemed like such an incongruity. hearing those happy, jolly songs and the jingling of bells and then hearing such tragic news. It was hard enough to go through a funeral just a week and a half before Christmas. I couldn't imagine ali the funerals and memorial services that would be taking place in that small town in the time leading up to Christmas One of my grandfathers died 27

years ago shortly before Christmas. It certainly put a damper on our Christmas celebrations that year. But he was an old man who was ready to die. When people die before their time, before what we might say should be their time, either from illness or accident or in the case of those people in Connecticut when their lives are taken before their time, I have to say again, "This isn't the way it's supposed to be And we're moved, saddened, even

angered by events like that shooting, or similar tragedies like shootings in high theatres that we hear about too often. In Syria over the last many months hundreds have died, many of them innocents, just a few hours' drive from Bethlehem. "This isn't the way it's supposed to be."

Just over a week ago we celebrated the birth of our Saviour, the one we call the Prince of Peace, born in that "Little Town of Bethlehem" We sang "O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!" but many weren't feeling "joyful" this Christmas. A reading from Isaiah, one that might

be familiar to many, says, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God" (Isaiah 40:1). On the Sunday after the shootings in Connecticut I read words very much like these, trying to bring some words of comfort to many who were hurting. But how do you explain, how do you comfort, what can you say? The fact is, there has been, there is, and there will be evil in this world. Sin infects us and our relationships and sometimes it boils over into horrendous acts like the one that Friday. I don't know if anything I say can make things better, or easier, or lighter. I just kept thinking, "This isn't the way it's supposed to be. One thing I have to say is that

I absolutely disagree with some wrongheaded comments made by religious people who claimed that this happened because we've shut God out of our schools. I think it's ridiculous. I don't believe that we can shut God out of our schools, or anywhere else for that matter. just like I don't believe that we can force God to be in our schools or anywhere else. God will be where God will be without one scrap of help or hindrance from us. I believe God was in Sandy Hook Elementary School on that Friday. God's heart was breaking as one of his beloved children was taking the lives of other beloved children. And God was and is in the fire hall and police station and hospital and morgue, in the churches and homes of the people of that town as they try to go on with their lives. To say that this happened, that God allowed this to happen, because

there, or didn't allow God to be there, I think is just ridiculous

Jesus was born into a world of sin, a world where many may not have wanted him to be, but he came anyway. And shortly after his birth his family had to flee the danger of that little town and barely escaped before Herod's soldiers committed a similar massacre of innocent young children. They didn't die because the people of Bethlehem didn't want God there. They died because Herod, a sinful man who was jealous and paranoid. wanted to protect his power. He did what

Do I have any good news, or anything to say that's supposed to help? Sometimes I get so sad and angry, disheartened and despairing that I don't know what to say. In the New Testament letter to the Christians in Rome, St. Paul writes that, "the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words" (Romans 8:26). When I can't find the words I depend on my faith, on the presence of my Lord and Saviour, whose love enfolds me and you, and that young mother we buried, and her 5 year old son. and the dead on Connecticut and in Syria and those who will have to find a way to go on in the aftermath of tragedy. There is good news. Sometimes it might

be hard to hear amidst the noise of all the bad news. On Christmas Eve we heard. "a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). We heard the message of the angels as they sang to the shepherds, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace" (Luke 2:14). He does bring us peace, even if we don't always see it, feel it, or know it. Even in our sadness he comes. In our anger he comes. In our despair he comes. In our darkness, the light of Christ shines. May his light shine in the darkness in all the world and may his peace rest with all those who mourn.

■ COLUMN: William Thomas

Players of the fame game – in their own words

he rich and famous said things in this past year that would cause the hair on Robin Leach's back to stand on end. They spoke of body parts and broken hearts and deep philosophical thingies. They kissed each other and dissed each other and called each other names. Like "a contaminated little maggot. That was actually one of the nicest

things Charlie Sheen had to say about the produce of Two And A Half Men before they fired him. Before his father Martin could get a bar of soap into his mouth. Charlie called Chuck Lorre a "clown" and a "turd," a "AA Nazi," and a "blatant



hypocrite." He called the show, for which he was being paid \$1.25 million per episode a "pukefest." Said host limmy Kimmel at the White House Correspondents Dinner to President Barack Obama: "I know you

won't be able to laugh at my jokes about the Secret Service so please cover your ears. If that's physically possible." (And Michelle nearly fell off her chair laughing.) From ears too really big rears ... "I want big boobs and a big old ass and a cape," said Mila Kunis on becoming a comic book heroine. But if you cover yourself with a cape, doesn't that cancel out your

other two wishes? Said Jessica Simpson: "My boobs are way too big to run at this point." Careful! They may not know how big they are. They might just take off anyway!

see WILLIAM THOMAS | page 5

The rich and famous have a way with words

FROM PAGE 4

Butt not a problem for Cameron Diaz: "My ass is definitely higher than it was when I was 20. It gets better as I get older." Really? Because that defies both gravity and

WILLIAM THOMAS

Headed for even more plastic surgery, the 78-year-old comedian said: "My body is a temple and the temple needs redecorating.

Commenting on Rihanna's plan to be back together with Chris Brown who beat her un and put her in the hospital, Ioan Rivers said: "Idiot! Now it's my turn to slap her!"

Yet keeping her options open, Rihanna said: "I would love to go on a date. I'm a woman. And I have too many vaginas around me at this point," Careful. As long as you don't scream or make a sudden move, they probably won't attack

Jack Nicholson has no such problem: "... the life of a gigolo always ends badly ... I no longer have the energy to both

work and fool around Not out there but for a different reason. Jennie Garth said: "I would rather lick the bottom of my shoe than go on a date." You wouldn't say that if

you lived in Wainfleet. Said Sofia Vergara: "If I walk outside without linstick I feel naked." Good Lord woman, it was only meant for your lins! Setting some sort of a dating world record. Cee Lo Green

said: "I'm definitely having

more sex than the average man, Yes, two or three women a night, trust me ..." Man, you're actually having more sex than the average rabbit. Ah, lack Nicholson will have what you're having which is a Viagra,

Cialis and oyster cocktail. Said billionaire Richard Branson: "In my lifetime, I'm determined to start a population on Mars, I think it's absolutely realistic." All by yourself! Okay, Richard will have what Jack and Cee Lo are having plus a splash of Spanish

Funny how Cee Lo Green was quite proud of his sex life while Peaches Geld was quite the opposite: "I'm not a debauched whore! English singer Morrissey

may be vague about his

sexuality (he calls himself a prophet of the fourth sex???) but he knows what he doesn't like: "I hate the royals. I think they're arrogant, horrible dictators. The world does not need them." But, not Prince Harry. The world needs Harry

like a dog needs a fire hydrant. "I hate people," said Robert Pattison, 'but I love does," Amen. And who does French actor Gerard Depardieu hate? "I don't much like the French," he said, describing his countrymen as arrogant and

smug Robert Redford ruined Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Kid for me when he said: "The guy was singing 'Raindrons Keep Falling On My Head'

and it wasn't even raining. I thought it was stupid." Yeah. well jumping off that cliff into that raging river when you can't swim wasn't all that smart

either Kid But Olympic medalist and newly-minted actor Ryan I achte restored my faith in films with his eloquent assessment of the thespian's

art: "Acting and memorizing lines and trying to, like, say them and still, like, do movement and all that. That was hard." And yet Randy Quaid makes it look so easy. You know Sir Laurence Olivier had much the same take on the performing art when he said: "Acting is a masochistic form of

exhibitionism." And this from Justin Bieber:

"I get days where I'm just down and gloomy." Those are the days kid, you just gotta suck it up and tell yourself, hey! I've made \$110 million because

although I might not be as talented, I'm way taller than those kids were in Menudo. Added "The Stratford Squeezer": "You just have pain in your heart because maybe you haven't dealt with it." By

it" I take it you mean grabbing your crotch which you do way too much. That's where the pain is coming from! It didn't do Michael Jackson any good and it won't help you. Try a slow roll, then a quick thrust like Elvis used to do. Very suggestive yet subtle.

www.williamthomas.ca

GROW-OP PROTOCOL

Aldermen passed a report calling to an agreement between the Township of Wainfleet and Niagara Regional Police regarding a marijuana grow-operations protocol

The protocol was developed to establish defined mutual and separate responsibilities for effective response and remediation, and would ensure once police identify a property as a grow-op, any steps deemed necessary would be taken to ensure the building no longer presents a hazard to the safety of public interest and surrounding community. Wainfleet has seen a number of grow ops discovered over the past several years.

MEETING DATES

Township council set its meeting dates for 2013.

Council meets on Tuesdays every two weeks for most of the year starting at 7 p.m. in township hall, 31940 Hwy.

Dates are as follows: Jan. 8 and 22, Feb. 12 and 26, March 12 and 26, April 9 and 23, May 14 and 28, June 11 and 25, July 16, Aug. 20, Sept. 10 and 24, Oct. 8 and 22, Nov. 12 and 26, and Dec. 10.

BUILDING PERMITS

Eleven building permits were issued in the township in November with fees totalling \$4,823.81

The value of those permits totalled \$627,800 in construction and included a new grain bin, foundation repairs, a farm shed, a second-floor addition and barn addition, among other projects.

One of the items on the list prepared by chief building official John Boerema, was work undertaken at the fire hall at the corner of Lakeshore and Belleview Beach Rds. The work included \$13,000 to reframe for larger bay doors and \$1,000 to repair firedamaged roof trusses. There was a small fire at the hall earlier this year.

If you have a story idea or see news happening, we want to hear from you inport.news@sunmedia.ca or 905-732-2414.

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Youngsters gobbling up chef classes

MARYANNE FIRTH InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE -Through its new cooking program, Port Cares has gotten the creative juices of local vouths boiling

Since constructing its new teaching kitchen as part of the Reach Out Centre expansion, Port Cares has welcomed in a slew of future chefs for a crash course on the culinary world.

ROC the Menu has become one of the most popular programs at the Nickel St. facility, with plenty of eager eight- to 14-year-olds signing up for its first session

What makes the afterschool program unique is not only the fact that it's offered for free, but also that local chefs have been invited in to mentor the young culinary connoisseurs.

When approached about helping out with the program, Kevin Echlin and Claudia Spiteri, of The Smokin' Buddha and Eataly Foods respectively, immediately jumped on board.

Not only did they offer to teach the kids some of their very own signature dishes, they also upped the ante with a chance for the young chefs to have their very own recines

served up a specials at their respective establishments.

It's a great opportunity for the kids to learn," said Spiteri, who was eager to teach the youths to cook with health in

We can teach kids about gardening, bringing that food into the kitchen and then cooking with those fresh ingredients."

Sandy Pedersen

"There are a lot of young potential chefs here," she said as she looked over the Reach Out Centre's bustling kitchen. "You can tell the ones that really have a love for food.

They're interested in watching everything we're doing." Many of the young kitchen aficionados are anvious to take on various tips and tricks of the trade, Spiteri said.

Whether it's learning the basics of cooking or how to alter a recipe to suit their

needs, the vouths wait wideeyed to gobble up every little bit of information, she said.

And when they say there's students are picking up tricks, they're not just talking about learning to make grilled

cheese The youths recently cooked up some grilled fish tacos with watermelon salsa and chimi-

churri esuca "That's definitely going on our menu," Echlin said, adding he intends to make the recipe a special at his King St. establishment

He called the program a fun experience, one he'd like to continue with moving forward. One of his favourite parts of

visiting the Reach Out Centre kitchen is sitting down to enjoy a meal with the kids after they put their newfound skills to the test Eleven-year-old Marybeth Lee was particularly impressed

by the chefs donating their "They show us ways to better our technique," she said, eager to learn.

The program has allowed Lee to pursue her passion for cooking and study under role models in the industry, a fact she's thankful for.

Port Cares is able to provide the program at no cost thanks to funding provided by Niagara Prosperity Initiative. It's facilitated by Port Cares community developer Sandy Pedersen.

"We've just got so much room here now. We can do so much." Pedersen said of the Reach Out Centre and its expansion.

"It's a great gift to now have this kitchen here," she said, calling it ideal for cooking classes for people of all ages.

To further encourage both youths to take the healthy route when it comes to food. Port Cares started the program My Own Two Hands,

Participants plant and grow fresh vegetables in a community garden on Davis St., on land lent to Port Cares by Vale. The garden is also funded by

Niagara Prosperity Initiative. "This way we can teach kids about gardening, bringing that food into the kitchen and then cooking with those fresh ingre-

dients," Pedersen said. "We want to try and teach them to eat healthy and to

introduce them to new things," maryanne,firth@sunmedia.ca Twitter: @mfirthTribune



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Nine-year-old Tanner Smith and Port Cares Bridges to Healthy Living co-ordinator Laura

Ciccone go over some tricks in the kitchen during a recent ROC the Menu class at the Reach

Out Centre.

ROC THE MENU FISH TACOS WITH WATERMELON SALSA AND CHIMICHURRI SAUCE

Chimichurri sauce 1 cup (packed) fresh Italian

1/2 cup olive oil 1/2 cup red wine vinegar 1/4 cup (packed) fresh cilantro

2 gartic cloves, peeled 1 squirt Sriracha sauce 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin

1/2 teaspoon salt Puree all ingredients in processor. Transfer to bowl. (Can be made 2 hours ahead. Cover

and let stand at room temperature.)

Watermelon salsa 4 cups diced seedless water-

1/2 small red onion, finely diced 1/2 cup roughly chopped fresh cilantro

Juice of 2 limes 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and finely diced 1 tablespoon virgin olive oil

1/2 teaspoon salt Combine all ingredients in bowl and set aside.

Aioli % cup mayonnaise

3 cloves garlic 1/2 lemon, juiced

howl

Salt and pepper to taste Combine all ingredients in a

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

To prepare fish, sprinkle thawed, dried fish filets with a bit of salt, oregano and chili powder. Sprinkle the fish with vegetable oil. Heat frying pan to HI and brush pan with oil. Add the fish to pan and cook through, about 4 minutes per side, until translucent. Do not overcook. Remove from pan and cut down the middle of filet in half then half again to fit small portion onto taco shell.

Taco preparation

6" soft taco shells

Shredded cabbage Avocados, sliced thinly

Monterrey Jack cheese, shred-

Fresh cilantro sprigs

To assemble tacos

Place as many taco shells as will fit onto a baking sheet. Place a small handful of shredded cabbage, a couple of slices of avocado, some aloll, and cheese. Put in the oven for about 5 minutes until cheese is completely melted and taco

shells are warm. Remove from oven and place fish pieces in middle of taco

shells, adorn with cilantro. Place two per plate. Serve with sides of chimichurri and salsa.

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■ GREEN ENERGY: Roofs must be able to support panels, fire chief warns



A Wainfleet businessman wants to install a ground-mounted solar panel similar to this one in Oro, Ont

Solar projects seek ray of light from township

DAVE IOHNSON InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET - Having the township on their side could help one resident and one business get to the front of the line for Ontario Power Authority's microFIT program for solar

Raymond Luciano, of Sentinel Solar, and resident Keith Veenhof were both before aldermen recently to ask for a municipal support resolution for two different projects in Wainfleet. For Veenhof, it was his second time before council

Luciano was representing Kirk Zavitiz, who wants to install a number of ground-mounted solar panels on his property at 54029 Wellandport Rd.

"A municipal support resolution will allow a competitive application process. There's a point system for the FIT program. If this resolution is granted, he (Zavitz) stands a better chance, said Luciano.

The project at Zavitiz's business would have a 20-metre setback from property lines and be behind a chain-link fence with a





tree line built around it, he said The project would need approval

from Hydro One as to whether there was capacity in the area and whether there would be an impact on power

Veenhof, who appeared before council last month, was asking for the same resolution as

The solar system he is proposing would be a rooftop system.
"There's no health concerns. no noise ... no moving parts, no emissions," he said, adding if there were concerns, it wouldn't be going on top of his new chicken harn.

The solar panels can help offset his farm costs, he told council. Fire Chief Harry Flagg said the panels proposed by Veenhof

would be installed on a building designed and structured to hold their weight.

His concerns, elsewhere, are about homes where panels were installed on roofs with no supporting structure inside.

"We won't be going on roofs to ventilate (in case of a fire)," he said, adding it would also have to be a life or death situation for him to send volunteer firefighters into buildings not structured

for solar panels if present. Near the end of discussion, Mayor April Jeffs told council she has no problem with Veenhof's

She also said there is no outcry from the community against solar power as there is with wind

But, she said, she is struggling with the number of ground-

mounted panels being proposed for the Zavitz property and wants to see the area for herself before making a decision Ald. David Wyatt put forward a motion to defer both requests until council's meeting on

Tuesday, Jan. 8. dave.iohnson@sunmedia.ca





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'People like to share'

SARAH FERGUSON InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE -Mieke Van Es described the outcome of this year's Santa's Helpers program as beautiful.

"I cannot say how many toys we collected but it's a lot. We've collected more toys than we ever did hefore*

About 450 children woke Christmas Day to find presents underneath their Christmas trees thanks to the program. Van Es said each child opened one large pres-

ent and a few smaller items as well as stocking stuffers. Van Es isn't sure why the

amount of donations was larger than in previous years but she said the response might have something to do with the struggling economy. "Maybe it's because people see that times are

bad for a lot of people. The economy is bad and people like to share. Van Es, who has organized

the toy drive for the past 15 years, said the program wouldn't have been possible without all of the support and the donations of

cash, toys and clothing from individuals, businesses and numerous church groups. "I'd love to thank everyone

for their help. I really appreciate everything that this community has done." The last day for collecting was Dec. 21, before a group

of 25 volunteers sorted the items and allowed parents to select presents for their children The items included small

toys, colouring books, a huge collection of mittens, hats, scarves and more than 30 pairs of boots for young children



Longtime volunteer and organizer of the community toy drive in Port Colborne, Mieke Van Es would like to thank everyone in the community who helped to make children happy on Christmas Day by donating toys, clothing and cash. Another another successful toy drive, Van Es celebrated the holidays with her great-grandson Landon Garner, two.

■ ART: Gallery presents Artists in Residence

Watching creativity evolve

VICTORIA GRAY

InPort News Staff PORT COLBORNE - When

people look at art they often try to find meaning in the content colours or brush strokes but it's hard to understand why an artist did what they did without talking to them. Joyce Honsberger of Arts Place Gallery says creativ-

ity is next to spirituality and that seeing an original work created is good for the community The gallery on King

St. in Port Colborne and Community Artists Niagara want to give people a chance to connect with an artist, through the Artists in Residence program. "A good arts program enter-

prises people and the community," Honsberger says. Tracey-Mea Chambers. a Metis visual artist from Dunnville, will create and

finish a work of art in Arts Place Gallery in January. Dean Tedesco, chair of Community Artists Niagara, says Chambers will be avail-

able for questions, conversation, information and just to observe. "We really want to help art-

ists connect to the communit and show them the process an artists goes through when they bring their concept to fruition," Tedesco says.

Chambers creates abstract mixed media paintings inspired by her Metis heritage. Chambers will work at the gallery Friday, Jan. 4, 11, 18 and 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will help walk viewers through her creative process.

"We're really hoping to inspire the youth to express themselves through art," Tedesco says, "If we can get one child to go home and say I can do that then we've been successful."

victoria.gray@sunmedia.ca Twitter: @VixeyG



Joyce Honsberger, left, from Arts Place in Port Colborne will host a Community Artists Niagara initiative championed by Dean Tedesco and called Artists in Residence.



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Shovels kept busy

SARAH FERGUSON In Port News Staff

WELLAND - Jack Frost lightly coated the ground with snowflakes on Christmas Day to set the mood for the

But he unleashed between 15 and 25 cm of snow on Niagara on Boxing Day and continued until the early morning Thursday.

The only fortunate part of this was it fell on the Christmas holiday, when traffic was down."

Dave MacLeod

Welland resident Katie Lane could be spotted shovelling her Niagara St. driveway in Welland Thursday morning

"I knew we were getting snow," she said about the overnight storm, but while adding she was stranded overnight in Niagara Falls

while visiting her family "The roads are good today, but (Wednesday) night they



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Gregoire said about five

Algoma Central Corp.'s Algosea was barley visible as it was docked on the east wall of the Welland Canal. was slowed down due to the were a terrible mess." and looking out for their and Port Colborne about 15

Canada Post letter carrier Mark Pavlakovich said about 10 a.m. Thursday and

he started delivering mail at

"It's not too bad," he said. "Most people have been shovelling their sidewalks

mailman! By the time Boxing Day concluded. Welland had

received about 15 cm of snow

cm to 25 cm. Environment Canada meteorologist Etienne

to 10 cm is expected to fall Saturday, but it won't be as significant as Wednesday's

etorm The average local snowfall in November is one centime-

tre and in December 50 cm. The Town of Pelham reported its residents were able to navigate roads smoothly Thursday thanks to the municipality's new plan

for dealing with snow. Public works director Ryan Cook said Pelham was "overprepared." The town's new plan focuses first on highpriority areas, which include Pelham St., Canboro Rd. and Effingham St., and other

areas of high-volume traffic. Plows were out from 5:30 p.m. Wednesday until 11 p.m., and stopped when wind picked up. Plows were back on the roads again early in the morning and there were no reported problems, he

said. "There were quite a few cars parked on the road which was a bit of a problem." Snow removal in Welland and Port Colborne was a smooth process, according to Sal Iannello, Welland's gen-

eral manager of infrastructure services and Port Colhorne Mayor Vance Badeway.

see STORM I page 11



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Residents at Northland Pointe, along the shores of Gravelly Bay, saw nothing but snow when they looked out their windows

Snow flies as cars drive down Hwy. 58 in Port Colborne at Stonebridge Dr.

Caution urged when driving in snow

"People are beginning to get the message to take their cars off the road when its snow-

ing," Iannello said. Badawey and Iannello had both expected all Port Colborne and Welland streets to be plowed by midafternoon to early evening

Thursday. For Niagara Region taxpayers, Wednesday's storm came with a price tag of \$170,000. That's about what it costs to keep the region's snow control crews out during big snowstorms, said operations and technology manager Dave

MacLeod. Those don't happen as often anymore, he said. Wednesday's weather, he said.

was more typical of 10 to 15 years ago, and its rapid onset gave snow crews a tough time. "The only fortunate part

of this was it fell on the Christmas holiday, when traffic was down He said within a day's time.

crews will use 28 plows to clear every main regional road six times Niagara Regional Police said the snow day drew 31 collision calls, 16 of which were can-

celled or deemed too minor to report. That includes fenderbenders and sideswipes. Two. including a fatal

snowmobile crash, involved

injuries. Snow should mean extra care when driving, Sgt. Paul Webb said in an e-mail

He said motorists should plan ahead and not rush, slow down when driving, give vehicles ahead more space and not tap the brakes to try and get tailgaters to back off. And he said drivers should keep

vehicles clean to maintain He said it's key to have snow tires, take care on bridges and

stay off cellphones Drivers, he said, should avoid driving altogether if it's

"No collision can happen if you aren't on the roads in bad weather," he said.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

- with files from OMI Agency's Jeff Bolichowski



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

A car makes its way through downtown Port Colborne as driving snow blows across the street.



Snow was thick on the bridges.





DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo A winter storm dropped between 20 to 25 centimetres on south Niagara. Drifts were starting to form around cars in the ADM Milling parking lot



The Clarence St. Bridge, Bridge 21, was barely visible at times.

Festive food feeds need for fellowship

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE - Doug and Elizabeth Kelley don't have a lot of family in Port

The couple, both over 80, don't like to drive in the dark, so they don't visit relatives on Christmas Day, but they live close enough to walk to Port Colborne High School for the Community Christmas Dinner



I know I wouldn't be able to do this alone

It's really wonderful." Shirley Gilmour

"This is a wonderful way to spend time with people and have a great meal without cooking a feast when there are only just the two of us." Elizabeth said

More than 150 people joined them for a turkey dinner with all the trimmings and desert Christmas day and that made the co-founder of the dinner, Jack O'Neil, very "The community needs

this. These people may not have anyone else to spend

Christmas with," he said. "We try to make the community a happy place on Christmas

After O'Neil said grace, a moment of silence was held for William (Billy) May, a volunteer who delivered meals to those who couldn't make it to Port High for more than

Volunteers delivered 40 meals to shut-ins this year. four meals to the Niagara Regional Police detachment in Port Colborne and several to the fire halls in the community. Emergency personnel work a regular 12-hour shift on Christmas and O'Neil can't let anvone go without.

"We believe they should have a hot meal, just like everybody else who can't be with their families on Christmas" O'Neil said Shirley Gilmour lives alone

and came for the second year in a row with friends from Dunville who also didn't have family coming to visit. She said she doesn't bother to prepare a Christmas dinner for herself. She really appreciates that members of the community offer her and her friends a place to have a traditional meal.

"We have no family and I know I wouldn't be able to do this alone," she said. "It's really wonderful.

Twitter: @VixeyG

victoria.grav@sunmedia.ca



Doug and Elizabeth Kelley enjoyed Christmas dinner with about 150 other people from Port Colborne at the Community Christmas Dinner. They don't drive anymore and weren't seeing family this year, so the chance to spend time with friends was



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December 24th, 2012 in his 91st year, He will be dearly missed by his wife Dorothy Jim (Debbie) Lindenas Predeceased by daughters Linda (Marvin) Longboat, and Kathy (Rick) Gateman, brother Bert (Bette) Lindenas, and siste Tyra (the late Howard) Schooley, Survived school teecher in Beemsville for 30 years an avid coller, and serious bridge player He landed with the Queen's Own Rifles on D-Day. Family will receive their friends and relatives at the WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME, 722 Ridge Road, Ridgeway on Friday, January 4th from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00

p.m. Memorial Service to follow in the Chepel et 1:00 p.m. Shering of memories nictures and condolences at www.williamsfuneralhome.ca

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ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo Residents of Northland Pointe long term care home were visited by Santa as well as Port Colborne volunteer firefighters, Christmas Eve. From left are firefighter Rick Russell, recreationist Yvonne Noble, resident Shirley Olm, Santa, resident eva Kovacich, and firefighter Sandy MacIntyre.

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